

December 14, 2010

A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, was held in the Council Hall of the Municipal Building at 7:00 p.m., December 14, 2010.

Members present: Mayor W. D. Tharp; Councilwoman Mary L. Flood; Councilman Guy E Murray, Jr.; Councilman Steve C. Rush; Councilman C. G. Stanley, Jr.; Councilman James A. Vest; and Vice Mayor Robert T. Wandrei

Members absent: None

Staff present: Assistant City Manager Barrett Warner; City Attorney W. W. Berry, IV; and Clerk of the Council Teresa W. Hatcher.

Staff absent: City Manager Charles P. Kolakowski

Mayor Tharp opened the meeting and led all present in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Tharp declared that the minutes of an adjourned Council meeting held on November 23, 2010, and the minutes of a regular Council meeting held on November 23, 2010, were approved as distributed.

Assistant City Manager Warner reported on the following:

- Chief of Police Day has developed a report on possible regulations for restricting through trucks – Council has received a copy of the report
- The Statement of Economic Interest forms are due from Council members by December 15 – turn forms in to the City Manager's Office
- the cold weather the area is currently experiencing is impacting the crews – there are a couple of water breaks
- reviewed the schedule of holiday closings for City offices

Councilman Vest, Chairman of the Finance Committee, stated the Committee met earlier in the evening regarding the FY 2009-2010 audit report.

Chief of Police Day reviewed the report regarding possible regulations for restricting through trucks. The City researched the possibility of restricting through trucks due to damage that the trucks were causing primarily at the intersection of N. Bridge Street and Main Street. Chief Day said that in 2009 the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) did a study. VDOT erected approximately forty-six signs to redirect truck traffic and offer alternate routes.

The Chief indicated there are three options: 1. to continue as it is now; 2. put "No Turn" signs for through trucks onto the existing light stanchions; 3. this option requires a public hearing and is required to go to the Commonwealth Transportation Board, requires a reasonable alternate route. The Chief said this would primarily affect trucks traveling to Route 43 N. and the only alternate route would be to use the Route 460 By-pass, turn on Independence Boulevard, then on Longwood Avenue to Route 43 N, which would

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require the trucks to negotiate the turn on to Route 43 from that direction, which could probably be done.

The Chief suggested putting the signs on the light stanchions as the officers could stop the trucks and summons them if they witnessed the trucks making those turns. This would affect only through trucks, not those making deliveries downtown.

Vice Mayor Wandrei asked if it would be possible to relocate the pedestrian light at the corner of West Main Street and North Bridge Street.

Mr. Warner stated the pedestrian lights would be subject to VDOT standards.

The staff will prepare information about the cost of moving the pedestrian light and VDOT regulations.

Mr. Billy Robinson with Brown Edwards and Company presented the Fiscal Year 2009-10 audit report. Mr. Robinson stated the Finance Committee went over the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report in great detail. Mr. Robinson said there were no compliance issues and his Company issued an unqualified opinion, which states that based on Brown Edwards audit procedures they believe this City's financial statements are materially correct and in accordance with governmental accounting standards. He said the City staff goes above and beyond what is necessary under governmental accounting standards.

The Mayor thanked Rosie Jordan, Director of Finance, and Debbie Roberts, City Treasurer, for assisting Brown Edwards and Company in getting this information together.

Mr. Warner reported that City staff is requesting an increase in the annual dog license tax. These fee increases were discussed during budget work sessions for the current fiscal year. An ordinance has been prepared that describes the procedure and fees associated with obtaining a dog license. Mr. Warner said that Council was requested to adopt the proposed ordinance for the increase in the annual dog license tax.

Councilman Murray moved that the ordinance increasing the annual dog license tax be adopted. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vest.

Vice Mayor Wandrei if there is a limit on the number of dogs a person can own.

Mr. Warner stated he will find out and give Vice Mayor Wandrei an answer to his question.

Mrs. Roberts stated there are two people who obtain kennel tags.

The Vice Mayor stated Council should look about restricting the number of dogs citizens can own, particularly in a residential area.

The motion was then voted upon and carried by the following roll call vote:

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Councilwoman Flood	aye
Councilman Murray	aye
Councilman Rush	aye
Councilman Stanley	aye
Councilman Vest	aye
Vice Mayor Wandrei	aye
Mayor Tharp	aye

The ordinance follows as adopted:

ORDINANCE NO 10-12

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RE-ENACTING APPLICATION
PROCEDURES FOR DOG TAGS AND INCREASING THE ANNUAL DOG
LICENSE TAX**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
BEDFORD:**

Section 1 Section 6-47 of the Code of the City of Bedford is amended and re-enacted as follows:

Section 47. License fees for dogs.

(a) License fees for dogs shall run by the calendar year and shall expire on December 31 following the day of issuance. Any resident of this city may obtain a dog license by making written application to the treasurer on a form provided by the City, accompanied by the amount of the license fee. The treasurer shall have authority to license only dogs kept by resident owners or custodians within the city and may require information to this effect of any applicant. Any person making application for a dog license shall be required to present to the official who issues such licenses a certificate of rabies vaccination, properly executed and signed by a licensed veterinarian, certifying that the dog has been vaccinated in accordance with the provisions set forth in this article. The certificate must show the date of inoculation, a brief description of the dog, sex and breed, and the owner thereof. The certificate must be present before the license is issued and must comply with the provisions of Va. Code Section 3.2-6521 herein. When the dog license has been issued, the certificate of vaccination shall be so marked and returned to the owner.

(b) Annual license fees shall be as follows:

- (1) For a male dog ... \$10.00
- (2) For a female dog ...\$10.00

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- (3) For an unsexed (successfully spayed or neutered) dog...\$5.00
- (4) For kennel of dogs (up to 10 dogs) ... \$35.00
- (5) For kennel of dogs (over 10 dogs) ...\$70.00
- (6) For a breeder or hobbyist (up to 10 dogs) ... \$35.00
- (7) For a breeder or hobbyist (over 10 dogs) ... \$70.00

(c) License fees shall be due and payable as follows:

- (1) On or after January 1 and not later than January 31 of each year, the owner of any dog four months old or older shall pay a license fee as prescribed in the preceding section.
- (2) If a dog four months of age or older unlicensed by this city shall come into the possession of any person in this city between January 1st and December 31st of any year, a license fee for the current calendar year shall be paid forthwith by the owner.

(d) Payment of the license fee subsequent to issuance of a summons to appear before the judge of the general district court for failure to do so within the time required shall not operate to relieve such owner from the penalties provided.

Section 2. Section 1-16 of the City Code shall be amended and re-enacted so as to incorporate the new fees for dog tags set forth above.

Section 3. The ordinance and the fees set forth herein shall go into effect on January 1, 2011.

Mr. Warner stated as part of discussion at the City Council work session held on November 23, 2010, the City Manager noted that staff has worked very hard to contain and minimize the City's personnel costs. In addition to the fact that City employees have not received an increase in salary for several years, this has been achieved by delaying the filling of vacant positions and the elimination of positions when vacancies have occurred.

Assistant City Manager Warner said the consensus of City Council was in concurrence with the City Manager's remarks. In recognition of staff's efforts and the economic challenges faced by employees, Council directed the City Manager to increase the City's contribution level for employees' monthly health care coverage premiums for the remainder of the current fiscal year. Currently, the City contributes \$370.70 per month per employee toward the cost of health care insurance. Mr. Warner stated the City Manager recommends an increase of this monthly contribution per employee to \$443.00. This would allow the City to offer one health insurance plan that is fully funded (i.e., that would be available at no cost to the employee). This increase would take effect January 1, 2011 and remain effective for the remainder of the current fiscal year.

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Mr. Warner said that City Council is asked to adopt a resolution establishing a change in funding for employee healthcare insurance for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2010-2011.

Councilman Rush moved that the resolution be adopted. Councilman Stanley seconded the motion.

Mayor Tharp said that Council asked the City Manager to look into some way to be able to say thank you to the City employees for the effort they have done by working hard and doing more with less. The Mayor asked Mr. Warner to pass along to the employees that this is Council's and the City Manager's way of saying thank you for a job well done.

The motion to adopt the resolution regarding employee healthcare insurance was then voted upon and carried unanimously by a roll call vote as follows:

Councilman Murray	aye
Councilman Rush	aye
Councilman Stanley	aye
Councilman Vest	aye
Vice Mayor Wandrei	aye
Councilwoman Flood	aye
Mayor Tharp	aye

The resolution follows as adopted:

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BEDFORD
ESTABLISHING CHANGE IN FUNDING
FOR EMPLOYEE HEALTHCARE INSURANCE
FOR REMAINDER OF FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011**

WHEREAS, the City of Bedford contributes \$370.70 per month per employee toward the cost of health care insurance for all City employees covered by the City's health insurance plan; and

WHEREAS, employees are responsible for all costs of health care coverage beyond \$370.70 per month, and said costs have increased significantly; and

WHEREAS, City Council is aware that City staff have not received an increase in salary to date for three successive fiscal year budget cycles; and

WHEREAS, City Council is aware of staff's efforts to minimize personnel costs, including the observation that employees are working harder to provide services as a result of factors such as position eliminations; and

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WHEREAS, it is the intent of City Council to formally recognize the integrity, professionalism and tireless efforts of City staff on behalf of our community and to affirm the high value which it assigns to employee performance and morale;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Bedford shall increase its contribution toward the cost of health care insurance coverage for all employees to \$443.00 per month per employee for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2010-2011. As a matter of policy, this change in funding shall be effective January 1, 2011 through June 30, 2011.

Mayor Tharp adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m. until January 3, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. for an organization meeting.